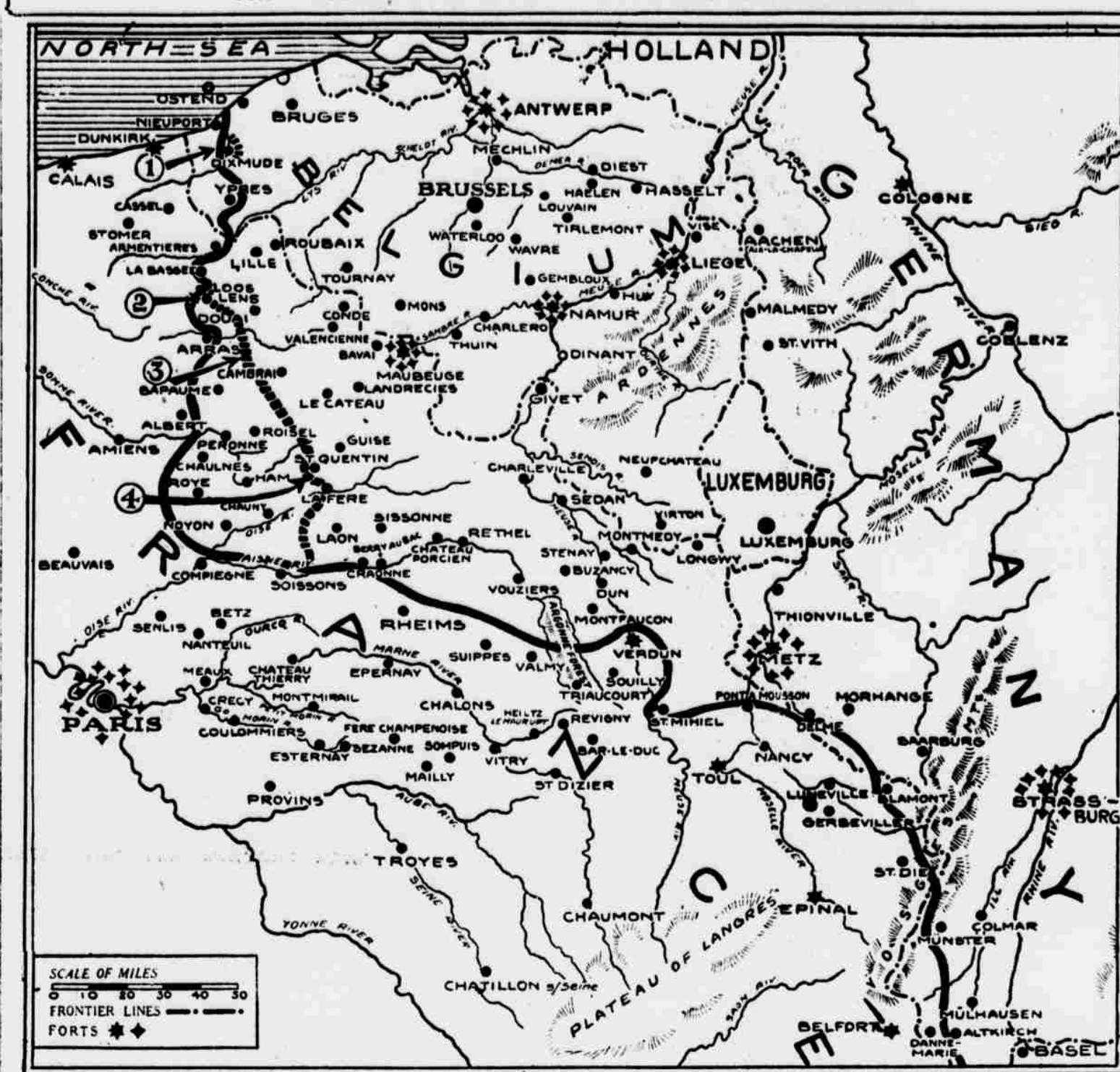


## The Western Front From the North Sea to Switzerland.



Map showing the big allied successes in relation to the whole front. Solid black line indicates the old front held by the Germans for more than two years; broken line the present front.

Arrow 1 indicates the totally unexpected evacuation of Dixmude to the Belgian troops, who have found the second German line there vacated. This may mean a big German retirement in Belgium.

Arrows 2, 3 and 4 indicate British successes in the great battle along the Hindenburg line, indicated roughly by broken line from south-east of Arras to east of Soissons.

## TEUTONS NOW SHOW WEAKENING MORALE

Troops in France Betray Nervous Fear When the British Attack.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, via London, April 15.—Fighting like men with their backs to the wall, the Germans are making desperate resistance to the British advance, especially along the Hindenburg line from Quentz to St. Quentin. The line has been broken between Quentz and Arras, and the Germans are attempting to hold the line from Quentz southward.

In the meantime, the British are approaching late to-day from three directions. The civilian population was ordered out by the Germans on Friday; no person was allowed more than thirty pounds of baggage. With the departure of the civilians the German seized three months' rations gathered at Lens by the American army.

Press continued to glow in Lens to-day, while far away to the south fires were seen within St. Quentin, toward which the British and French are converging. Realizing that the important town of Quentz, the switch point of the Hindenburg line, was threatened by the close proximity of the British, the Germans early to-day launched an attack from there over a six mile front.

Victory is Shortlived.

While suffering immediate reverses everywhere else, they managed by the concentration of artillery to recapture Lagnicourt, opposite Quentz, which was taken from them several weeks ago. Their victory at this point was short lived, however, for the British immediately counter attacked and retook Lagnicourt with more than 300 prisoners, and catching the retreating Germans under an intensive field gun fire, cut them to bits.

Thus ended the first real "defensive" offensive the Germans have attempted since the battle of Arras, in which over a hundred dead were counted in front of the British positions.

From one end of the British front to the other the Germans are gradually nervous and jumpy. Where they have been driven from their old positions they are feverishly digging at night. Each morning new airplane photographs show the results of the nocturnal activities behind the temporary line. Most of the new trenches are merely emergency defenses built at angles with a view to giving cover to machine guns with which the Germans hope to delay the British advance until further work can make the rear defenses tenable.

Reports Contradictory.

It is now stated that no part of the Hindenburg line was expected to be completed until the end of April, despite the announcement that the recent western retreat had been entirely according to German plans.

Where the Germans still hold their old positions to the north of Lens the situation is a panic. Flares and signals rockets of all colors spring from their trenches, but the British are not Man's Land, trench mortars set up defensive barrage and artillery help is frantically called for.

Some of the German flares and lights are most amusing, as well as spectacular. Their latest star shells have a parachute attachment and hang suspended in the air for a long time, lighting up the surrounding country for several hundred yards. They break into three balls. The British soldiers call them "pawbrokers."

The German in the front line have long been worried by the inferiority of their artillery to that of the British. A recently captured report contains a complaint that the artillery often fails to answer the call for help.

"For our industry," says the report.

"which since the Somme battle has been on the defensive. It is from the point of view of morale of importance to be able to count upon artillery support. Infantry that comes to expect itself merely as a target for the hostile artillery must in the long run give way. A prompt and effective reply to hostile shells has a recuperative effect on the morale of troops even in the most difficult situations."

Conditions within the German lines just prior to the battle of Arras and the depressed state of many of the German soldiers are described in letters captured during the recent fighting. Two letters in particular, both written by Bavarians in positions opposite Arras, are wonderfully impressive. One of them indicates clearly the disintegrating effect the entry of the United States into the war has had. It is dated April 8 and reads:

"We now have a very bad position at Arras, where we have been under a continuous hurricane of fire for six days. The English at times fire gas shells, which are not exactly pleasant. When everything imaginable is turned against one, one cannot stand it; then it is all over. The sights around one are simply cruel. It is enough to drive one mad."

Always Possess Hope.

"It is no longer a righteous cause, of which I am convinced. But one always begins to hope again, and think that it must come to an end. But it is not possible. The world is still in too mad a state. We are the tools and allow ourselves to be belated."

"Now America comes to make it last longer. Everybody wants to chip in. I believe it will never end. Peace will never return to the land."

The second letter, dated Easter, the day before the British attack began, tells how welcome to the Germans have been the weapons of their own invention when turned against them. It says:

"For the last four days the English have been firing gas shells all over the country in order to harm the Germans as much as possible. This regiment—the English Bavarians—has already had considerable losses in killed and gassed. The sad point is that the English gas is almost odorless and can be seen only by the practiced eye escaping from the shell. The gas shells slowly cover the ground in a bluish haze and kill any one who does not draw his mask as quick as lightning over his face before taking a breath."

Trenches Shot to Pieces.

"The night before last I was in the front-line. What a sight! The last time we were in the front line trenches we were easily accessible. Now all communications and all parapets have been shot to pieces. It is a gruesome sight there. The prospect looks terrible. Our people say that things were not as bad at Verdun as here."

Another captured document shows that the Germans fully appreciated the meaning of the extensive British preparations for the attack. It says:

"The Canadians are known to be good troops and well suited to assaulting purposes. There are no deserters to be found among the Canadians."

It further declares that to succeed in

their plans the British would have to take Vimy Ridge, leaving the inference that the Germans thought this task impossible. German officers taken during the battle were incredulous when told that the British not only held Vimy Ridge but had pressed far beyond. They say that the plans and the orders to all reserves were to counter attack at once if the British threw the Germans off the crest.

Canadians Bent on Victory.

However, when the Canadians, ably assisted by an English division, went after Vimy Ridge this time it was with the determination to place that long disputed vantage ground once for all within the allied lines.

It is one of the petty perversities of the great world war that some of the most heroic fighting on Vimy Ridge should have been about a place jokingly in the name of "The Pimple." The correspondent met some worn and muddy Canadians returning from beyond "The Pimple" yesterday afternoon. Among them were many Nova Scotians. They had been fighting from Sunday night until Friday night and declared they had enjoyed every minute of it.

They were not in "The Pimple" all this time, but well beyond it. Before "The Pimple" could be cut out, however, it was necessary to drive the Germans back through several long converging tunnels which were fortified in such a manner that they were believed to be absolutely impregnable. The Germans within those tunnels said they felt so safe that they hoped to remain there for the rest of the war.

Some of the Canadians had subsisted on "iron rations" for five days and had practically no water for three days. But they never thought of turning back for food or drink until their task was completed. They swung along with the dogged but satisfied air of men returning from a successful day's hunting expedition.

Freddy Frill stood stock still. Was it a Joe? That jarred his ear?

Freddy Frill felt quite ill. Was it his suit? That made them quiet?

Freddy Frill had his fill. Now pays his bill. At Rogers-Pett's!

Smart styles, but not a single frill! Spring suits. Spring overcoats. For big men, little men and in between.

ROGERS-PETT COMPANY  
Broadway at 13th St. "The Four Corners" Broadway at Warren  
Broadway at 14th St. Fifth Ave. at 41st St.

WASHINGTON 3-DAY TOURS April 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, May 31, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, June 30, July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, July 31, August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, August 31, September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, September 30, October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, October 31, November 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, November 30, December 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, December 31.

## GOETHALS WORKS ON SHIPS.

He Takes Up Wooden Vessel Plans With Federal Board.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Plans for the construction in record time of 1,000 wooden ships with which to multiply the effects of the German submarine blockade of allied ports were taken up to-day by Major-General Goethals in conference with members of the Shipping Board. As he will have under his supervision the unbuilding of the American merchant marine, his recommendations as to the acquisition of additional tonnage through the use of German and Austrian ships in the harbor of the United States probably will be followed.

Gen. Goethals agrees that the United States can best help the Allies immediately by insuring to them a steady stream of supplies, food and munitions, and with the new ships the United States will send great increased quantities.

Effect of Taking of Lens.

Besides the capture of Lens, which will rank as an event of the utmost importance in its effect upon the present advance, there will be the effect of flinging the enemy back on a line approximately parallel to that below Arras that they say he is endeavoring to cling to at a point north of Lens, swinging back and pivoting on Lens as he tried to do lower down on Arras, only here there is no Hindenburg line to fall back on and he goes with unswerving haste, forgetting to take his guns with him.

It is evident that the total number of prisoners is not going to stop at 13,000 nor even at 14,000. As to the guns, they are now about 300, including a growing proportion of heavies, both 5.9 and 8 inch howitzers. If Germany has said officially that all the guns and material were destroyed this is false. I reported days ago that we were using the captured field guns and captured ammunition against the enemy. Within the last two days we have begun to use not only the German field guns but his batteries of 5.9. The enemy did not take his ammunition with him, but he is getting it back just the same.

German Prisoners Show Low Morale.

Artillerymen Fear Being Attacked by Infantry.

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LONDON, April 15.—The Times has received the following despatch from Perry Robinson, its special correspondent at British headquarters in France:

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A most illuminating fact I learned from an officer in charge of the cage. In former messages I have spoken of the magnificent work of our artillery in this battle, of the enthusiastic way in which all our infantry speak of our guns. Among these prisoners were a lot of German artillerymen. The officer noticed that they all huddled together, keeping as far as the limits of the cage permitted from the rest of the prisoners. The evacuation of prisoners from Lens, Lievin and Sallaumines was done hurriedly. We learn that the civilians were allowed to take only what they could carry. The Germans seized everything else. We hear stories from refugees that the prisoners and even German soldiers in the occupied areas are eking out their rations by eating cats and dogs.

In my former dispatches I did not deem it advisable to call attention to the threat to Lens. Our advance there no longer needs reticence, because the Germans are already out of Lens and we are pushing in. In two hours to-day I watched the enemy retreat. The actual corporal German was inevitable, but we could trace his footsteps by line of dropping shells, hustling him as he went.

Waist Deep in Mud.

Between Lievin and Lens there were two formidable German lines. In places our men had to fight almost to their waists in mud, but nothing checked them. South of the Souchez River we breached the more formidable of two lines at the hamlet of La Coulotte, where the lines of trenches were a cross the Lens-Arras road a mile southwest. North of the river lies a strong series of positions 1,500 yards east of Lievin, including two elaborately fortified redoubts known as Crook and Crazy redoubts, and there were formidable machine gun defenses at Lievin wood. All these have been carried in an hour's fighting.

Further back, Lens itself, in the mining settlements, explosions were going all morning, especially to the north-west, where the Germans still held a steady stream of supplies, food and munitions, and with the new ships the United States will send great increased quantities.

## BRITISH BATTLED TO WAISTS IN MUD

Germans Had Little Time for Destruction Before Giving Up Lens.

LOST MANY MORE GUNS

French and Russian Prisoners Hastily Dig New Trenches Along Retreat.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 15.—The weather is bad again. Rain is falling steadily, making impossible observation, whether from the air or from the ground, and hampering our movements. Since yesterday, however, we have pushed near to Lens on the west and hold the outlying suburbs of Cite St. Jeanne d'Arc. Cite de Riamont, Cite des Garennes. We are progressing from the south by the Arras road in the direction of Avion.

No eyes can see what is going on in Lens itself, but there is every reason to believe that the work of destruction is going on, though the rain will make it more difficult to start conflagrations. We get reports of the feverish haste with which the enemy is constructing trench lines in his rear. In this work he is employing prisoners of war in large numbers, especially French and Russians. Of course this is utterly illegal.

Seven Divisions Gone.

The Germans confessed officially that two divisions suffered seriously. It is reasonable to suppose that the capture of 13,000 prisoners, exclusive of casualties, would make a very considerable hole in two divisions. The fact is that in the attack on April 9 some seven divisions were hit. What was left of five was withdrawn immediately, and now two more are gone.

The evacuation of prisoners from Lens, Lievin and Sallaumines was done hurriedly. We learn that the civilians were allowed to take only what they could carry. The Germans seized everything else. We hear stories from refugees that the prisoners and even German soldiers in the occupied areas are eking out their rations by eating cats and dogs.

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## CARRANZA PLEDGES MEXICO NEUTRALITY

First Chief Reads Address to the New Constitutional Congress.

DISPROVES KNOX CHARGE

Henry Lane Wilson, He Says, Tried to Sway Him to Recognize Huerta.

MEXICO CITY, April 15.—Gen. Carranza in his address to the new Congress tonight declared that Mexico would maintain a strict and rigorous neutrality in the world war.

He, von Eckhardt, the German Minister, was seated in a box with Austrian, Spanish and other diplomats. Henry P. Fletcher sat with the British Minister.

Gen. Carranza also read to the Congress a complete report of his administration as First Chief of the Republic, extended from the time of the Maderista revolution in 1910. His gave in detail the alleged efforts of Henry Lane Wilson, then American Ambassador to Mexico, to influence him, as follows:

"Just after the assassination of President Madero, the Consul and Vice-Consul of the United States visited me at the Government Palace at Saltillo, under instructions from Henry Lane Wilson, the American Ambassador, to bring pressure to bear upon me to recognize the alleged efforts of Henry Lane Wilson, then American Ambassador to Mexico, to influence him, as follows:

"They instantly affirmed that all resistance would be futile, because Huerta had immense resources, sufficient to choke the revolt in Coahuila, and they made known to me that the Government of Huerta had been recognized by all other governments, including the United States, which had diplomatic representatives in Mexico, and added that by order of the Ambassador all the other Governments had accepted the government, and that it was the only one maintaining a rebellious attitude."

"In answer I said that I would not accept the arrangement and would follow my duty as Governor of the State, whatever the outcome. Afterward I obtained a full copy of Ambassador Wilson's message to the said consuls to bring pressure upon me. A few days later Vice-Consul Stillman asked what would be my conditions to Huerta through Ambassador Wilson."

"I wrote in reply that my terms were that Huerta and the others contented with the Carranzalazo leave the country and that the capital be evacuated and occupied by troops of Coahuila and Sonora, and that Congress designate a legal substitute for President. Mr. Stillman promised to see that this letter reached the capital, but I never had an answer."

It is opportune to make clear these facts in view of the recent interview given by Senator Knox in the United States in which he said the intervention of Ambassador Wilson was due only to the fact that I had asked his mediation, which is entirely false, as the facts are as above.

RICH GERMAN'S FOOD SECRET.

Conceal Rations From Kiel Workers Who Ask Sustenance.

COPENHAGEN, via London, April 15.—According to the Kiel Zeitung, and officials of the German shipyard at Kiel, who demanded an immediate increase of food and 58 per cent. additional wages, were addressed at a recent meeting by the directors, who declared they stated the hardships of the men receiving an identical quantity of food stuffs to that served the merchant sailors.

A deputation of workmen visited the directors the next day and asked permission to investigate the contents of the directors' larders. This was refused on the ground that the directors did not possess larders or stores.

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